



## MARCH 2011 ISSUE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

ART: WHITEEAGLE

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Kitty's Idea, 2  
Faithlynn's  
story and poem

Jonathan shares 3  
his experience

"I'm Thankful 4  
For",  
"A Beautiful  
Fall"

Greetings from 5  
Marissa, Call for  
Transgender  
Zine  
Submissions

Black and Pink: 6  
Purpose and  
Analysis,  
Current  
Projects

Black and Pink: 7  
Definitions,  
Reflecting on  
Pen-Pal  
Program

Black and Pink: 8  
Family  
Structure

Black and Pink: 9  
Join the  
Leadership  
Circle!

Addresses,  
Black and Pink  
Art Update! 10

Dear friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Due to your commitment to one another and your willingness to share your newsletters and tell other people about what we are doing, Black and Pink has grown to nearly 700 incarcerated members! That is pretty incredible. Until the walls come down we will continue to grow, building our family, strengthening our movement, knowing that with the strength of each other we will be able to build the new world that we dream of.

I chose a theme for the month again, like I did in February. March is Women's History Month, importantly placed as International Women's Day is March 8th. This month is a celebration of women, all women, regardless of their bodies. This is a month to celebrate and honor the struggles of all people who identify as women. The fight against the prison industrial complex is not only in the hands and lives of men, but people of all genders. Victoria Law, an incredible anti-prison organizer, wrote a book, *Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women*, and reminds all of us that, "In 1974, women imprisoned at New York's maximum-security prison in Bedford Hills staged what is known as the August Rebellion. Protesting the brutal beating of a fellow prisoner, the women fought off guards, holding seven hostages and taking over sections of the prison. While many have heard of the 1971 Attica prison uprising, the August Rebellion remains relatively unknown even in activist circles." She goes on to be clear that the struggles of women prisoners are just as important as the struggles of men.

Women's resistance behind bars looks as complex and takes on as many forms as any other community's resistance does. One of the patron saints of prisoner resistance is Joan Little. Little was a 21-year-old Black woman in 1974 who while incarcerated defended herself against a white prison guard who had threatened her with an ice pick and forced her to have oral sex with him. Little defended herself and killed the man who sexually assaulted her. A large national feminist movement rose up around Little and helped to defend her right to stand up for herself. After a long fight she was acquitted! This is part of our history.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, queer, same-gender loving woman have also been part of the movement and their struggles must inform ours. Laura Whitehorn, a former political prisoner, wrote the following to her prison officials after material was denied to her because "homosexuality was not permitted within the institution": *There's been a terrible mistake/You've just informed me that/ homosexuality is not permitted/in this institution/I now inform you that I am a homosexual/Therefore, I am not permitted/in this institution/and must be/ immediately/released.* While, unfortunately, her very rational request was denied, the humor and power and resistance was ever strong.

Support for LGBTQ women behind bars has a long legacy on the outside too. There was an organization, Out of Control: Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War that began in 1986 and continues informally today. This organization came together after the U.S. Bureau of Prisons opened its first "high-security unit" for women. The unit got national attention for being atrociously violent described as, "daily mental torture... All walls were painted white. The all-male guard staff controlled all the lights. No visitors were allowed except attorneys... Locked in cells 23 hours a day. All meals were brought from outside the building and eaten alone in their cells." While this treatment is common place today for prisoners throughout the country, this was a new form of violence in the 1980s and a group of women began meeting together in San Francisco to raise national awareness about the struggles of women and continue fighting for the freedom of all political prisoners. Later, in the 1990s and 2000s, they began to advocate for more social prisoners, advocating for all women. And, as we all know, the struggle continues.

For this month of March, take some time to imagine what it would look like to live in a world that truly valued woman, a world that honored gender equity, a world where gender can be played with and explored. As you are imagining, remember that 'once there were no prisons, that day will come again!"

Love and struggle, Jason

# Kitty's Idea

Dearest Family and Friends,  
I've got an idea which you may or may not find to be good. Why don't you select one correspondent from each state, depending on which states are writing to you. And he or she, from there, can reach out to our other brothers and sisters in different places (providing that their facilities allow inmate to inmate correspondence). Then, that person can elect one person for every function. For example, one person would gather all of the artwork to be sold. One would get people to write articles and poetry for the newsletter, etc.

I'm advocating in the state for the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. It's a group of interns and law students, who are mostly trans-men (FTM) and they do everything from disciplinary hearing appeals to a name change. Here's their information: Chase Strangio c/o Sylvia Rivera Law Project, 147 West 24<sup>th</sup> St, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York City, NY 10011.



And let's not forget what Tim Curry said in The Rocky Horror Picture Show-  
"Don't dream it, Be it."

Love, peace, and hair grease,  
Kitty



## Faythlynn, out of her shell

I am now a confident transgender "girl" as I like to call myself, now that I'm able to come out of my shell. But just like Eddie I have to stay in ad-seg for the rest of my time in prison. While I was at Marquette branch prison in GP, this predator was pressing me for SEX and I refused to do it, and me being a very smart girl I simply told him, "No thanks sir I'm married." I walked away and told my husband whose name is Tone. I said "Sexy man, that guy right there is trying to press me for sex, can you please say something to him?" He replied, "Yeah booty I will." (He calls me a lot of sweet sexy names such as booty, bubblez, sweet love, etc). So he goes over to say something to him and I stay with my younger sisters Tailer and Sinnamyn who are only 20 now. I'm 27. About 10 or 15 minutes later he comes back and pulls me off to the side and says, "Mama he is talkin crazy so I want you and your sisters to go in at half time so you don't get hurt." I replied, "OK daddy I love you" then kissed his lips (which are so soft) and I went in. About 15 minutes later they blow count, I look out my window and see my husband being took to ad-seg with blood on his shirt. I started crying nonstop for 6 days. I didn't talk to anybody, then I get a letter from Tone telling me to get off the yard, that one of the predator's guys are after me, so I came out to get locked up on PC, but got beat up on the way. Now I sit in PC for the rest of my time in here. It's the only way to stay safe.

### Stranger in the Mirror

When I look in the mirror I see a stranger with the same features as my own: the same edges, the same lips, the same ears, the same nose. She copies every move I make, but his or rather her intentions are unknown, so I do my best to just ignore her but she won't leave me alone.

Over the years we became close, sharing our deepest, darkest secrets. But, we both struggle with trust issues so I don't know if we can keep it. We see the world through the same eyes and we share the same beliefs. But, people fail to understand the misunderstood, so we never feel complete.

Sometimes she encourages me to make irrational decisions and even though I know it's wrong, I'm hypnotized so I listen. She's been there through the ups and downs, the smiles and the tears, the only one in this world that truly knows my fears.

We build walls around each other to conceal the pains we hold inside, living life like it lasts forever; I'm surprised we're still alive since the day she invaded my space, my life's been full of terror. I wanna run away but I can't because I'm the stranger in the mirror.

-Faythlynn Ginnifur Roberts (Michigan)

# Jonathan shares his experience

Dear Brother and Sisters & GLBT Supporters,

This is my second time to write about the horrid conditions and uncontrolled staff abuse that is a staple of this "correctional facility." Please rest assured I will continue to write about these issues until I am released from this filthy, disease-ridden, vermin infested, hostile, concentration camp-gulag monstrosity of contempt and atrocious suffering, and ultimately the very prison system that condones this type of degrading mannerism.

On Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:18 AM Officer Adesina took it upon himself to deny me the right of food and then when I attempted to talk to him in a civil manner he slammed me to the ground then charged me with assault. When the camera was on route he struck me in the stomach while I was on the ground and in no position to either be aggressive or defend myself. After I was taken to the infirmary for their version of an "investigation for injuries," which is just them getting height and weight then asking "if you have any injuries" all the while the Sgt. is staring at you and shaking is head "no."

I was then taken to 215 and placed in there without a mat or blanket and with Seg not having the heat vents that are supposed to be mandatory it was extremely cold. About an hour goes by and Sgt Sprool walks up and said he was "gonna beat my ass" if I didn't give him the handcuff key. I told him it wasn't my fault the officer lost his handcuff key. Fifteen minutes later Sgt Washburn and another officer pulled me out and drug me, threw me, and locked me in the two row washroom. For about 3 hours I was locked in the storeroom that smelled of urine, had leaky pipes, with the wind blowing so it was even colder and I was not allowed to put my clothes on so I am in boxers, and on top of all this, rats and roaches crawl freely all over the unit and especially back here. Officer Henderson realized what all had happened and talked to daytime Rank and I was released. After all was said and done I caught pneumonia and eventually nursed myself back to health without medical bothering to check on my condition.

Our word means nothing, it's only when people in the outside world get involved that change can happen. It's especially hard on GLBT prisoners, so here's something to think about- get involved in legislation to release all GLBT prisoners whose cases resulted in no injuries. Another issue to look into is the release of all first time offenders as well as the release of the inmates in custody overflow. This will alleviate 90% of the problems going on here and well also give us back a part of life in terms of our family and our kids.

I have an eight month old girl that was born after I was locked up and I'm doing all I can to avoid this trouble and get others involved to get people like me out of here. I wish someone would come through here with a hidden camera and you will see the assaults, abuse, degradation, hostility and the situation was face everyday. If that happened maybe people would take letter like these seriously and realize prison is the reason crime is a continual problem. When you lock a person up in a cage like an animal and deprive him of necessities while constantly antagonizing and encouraging criminal behavior, what do you expect, an outstanding citizen? Anything less than more of a criminal is insanity. The bottom line is there is no such thing as a "correctional" facility; prison is nothing more than a factory for criminals.

Hopefully you will get this, the Laws like to mess with my mail because I draw heat to the unit, but this place and the system in general needs to be exposed. It takes unity to make a change for the better, and through all of us we can be re-united with our families and work to close all the prisons, or at least reform to make them where criminal behavior gets addressed through the root, but also through a change in social aspects, because social environments do affect decisions of individuals and can lead to crime. Even though most of us are guilty of mistakes we are none the less human and deserve a second chance to better ourselves and prison is not going to help in that. Freedom is the only answer.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan

*B&P says: Jonathan, thank you for having the strength to share your awful experience with the Black and Pink family. We hope that you are healthy and healing. Your word does mean something!*

*Unity is so important, and prisoners can organize together and make change!*



# "I'm Thankful For"

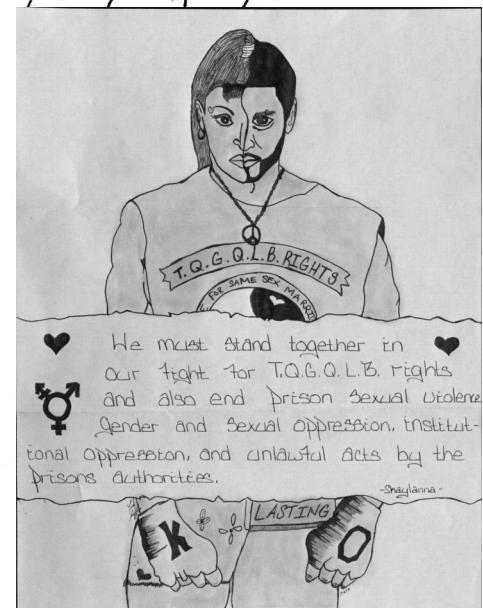
I'm thankful for Black and Pink volunteers,  
I'm thankful for the small things in life  
I'm thankful for a second chance  
I'm thankful for country music star Taylor Swift

I'm thankful for life's beautifulness  
I'm thankful for my sweet personality  
I'm thankful for being blessed with another day on earth  
I'm thankful for the things I've learned over the last four years

I'm thankful for my GLBTQ family  
I'm thankful for not taking my own life when the devil called  
I'm thankful for my boyfriend  
I'm thankful for my artistic talents

If you don't think you have something to be thankful for here's one you can have... Shaylanna cares for you. Keep your head up you're not alone.

Skittles Love the Rainbow,  
Shaylanna (poem and artork)



## "A Beautiful Fall"

As a gentle wind caresses the fascinating sun-kissed leaves,  
the skillful harmonious birds sing here and there.  
Beautiful reds, oranges, gold and yellows...  
colors so enriched and profound pervade the autumn air.  
The leaves rustle, engrossing whispering of days to come,  
enchanting to those that walk below.  
Sunlight glints off the upturned foliage in eloquence,  
the leaves wave to and fro.  
Though at times we may seem captivated and to be caught up  
in the mystery, magic and awe-inspired fascination of it all,  
We'll always have a deep authentic appreciation for the expose and beauty  
known as a beautiful fall.

-Horace Carter in Wisconsin

# Greetings from Marissa

Greetings to everyone at Black and Pink,

I am writing this letter in order to congratulate all of you on the fine work that you are doing for the GLBT community all over the country. I just recently had the opportunity to read some of your latest issues, my close friend Dale was kind enough to share with me his copies, which he has been receiving over the last year through the mail here and I was very impressed by the integrity and compassion of your publications. My name is Marissa, well I was born a male with the name Hans about twenty something years ago, but Marissa is the name I have chosen for myself being that I started to transition into a female five years ago. I never realized the struggles I would be facing when I found out I was transgendered, and I know that my life would have been a little less difficult had I known that there was such a strong outreach for people of alternative lifestyles. The resources and support that you at Black and Pink offer is exactly the type of positive energy that we should all be putting out to the universe, and for that I thank you. I know the politics that come with wanting to help your fellow man, being that I tried working with the state of Utah's Department of Health while incarcerated at the prison in the southern region of the state, and let's just say writing a grant for the prevention of rape is all fine and dandy as long as it is intended for resources to help *women*, but trying to help prison inmates is a whole other obstacle. Being a survivor of sexual abuse as a child and then encountering it again in prison, I have decided that I will have a voice, and that I will spend my life doing whatever I can to help those who feel that their cries of help are being drowned out by the sounds of oppression... but I cannot do it alone. My goal is to start a non-profit organization that would help and mainly focus on the victims of prison rape. I believe that PREA is one of the best ideas the federal government has had, but it is not enough. PREA mainly informs and instructs people on how to deal with prison rape, but what we should be focusing on is how do we prevent the rape from ever happening in the first place? We could start by having our government provide more specific training when it comes to P.R.E.A in our departments of corrections. But what should that specific training be? They could start by looking at some of the very informative pieces that you at Black and Pink have published. Well my brothers and sisters, I end this letter once again with my appreciation and gratitude for taking the first steps of making a better tomorrow for all of us under the sun. I only hope that one day I will provide a service such as yours that will make someone say the same to me.

Eye Candy and Eyeliner,

Hans "Marissa" Jenkins

## Call for Transgender Zine Submissions!

Hi, I'm Hales and I am working on a zine called "Transpired." I want to create communication about gender identity issues being a universal concern. Also, I want to work towards reforming the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Illness (DSM). The diagnoses of Gender Identity Disorder and Transvestic Fetishism are filled with offensive and stigmatizing language and that needs to change. Zines are great forums for communicating and spreading information.

What do you have to say about these issues? Your story, artwork, cartoons, rants and ravings, and poetry could help inspire others and create change. What's your story? As a trans person what has been your path? So often people, authorities, institutions, and societies try to interfere with how we want to live our lives. How have you overcome the obstacle of others and become YOU?

Submissions: TRANSPRIRED ZINE, Attn: Hales Schmidt, 31 Beaufort Rd, Jamaica Plain MA 02130

# Black and Pink: Purpose and Analysis

Dear B&P Family,

Exciting stuff is happening! Yay! “Free world” B&P people have had two retreats. We hope you enjoyed reading the Statement of Purpose in the last Newsletter. We have more! We have a shared Analysis and a Structure for our family...and we need you.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing.

## ANALYSIS

Our organizing efforts are guided by a larger goal of collective liberation. We hold strong to a feminist, anti-racist, queer liberationist, anti-capitalist, radical analysis of social, ecological, and economic struggles. We understand the prison industrial complex to be part of a larger system that utilizes systems of oppression to divide people and exploit our individual and collective power. Through movement building and sustained direct action against these systems of violence we will create the world we dream of.

We also celebrate in the beauty of what exists now including our love for each other, the strength of our planet, incredible human resiliency, and all of the power we have to continue existing. While dreaming and struggling for a better world we embody a deep commitment to living in the present.

We understand abolition as not only our end goal but also our pragmatic strategy for action. Any advocacy, services, organizing, and direct action we take will be sure to remove bricks from the system, not put in others we will need to abolish later. We will willingly work with reformist organizations on campaigns we believe are abolitionist, even if they are only small steps at alleviating the suffering caused by the prison industrial complex.

We root our work in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. To best maintain an accountable relationship to incarcerated people, half of those in the leadership circle are currently incarcerated. We also prioritize the voices of formerly incarcerated people as our “free-world” members of the leadership circle. We know that those most impacted by the violence of the prison industrial complex are best equipped with the knowledge of how to tear it down.

As of today Black & Pink’s “free-world” membership is primarily Boston-based. We commit to supporting one another, sharing the work of our organizing efforts, and nurturing the growth of our family both inside and outside the walls. We intend to expand our national and international membership, creating chapters in other cities, towns, schools, neighborhoods, etc.

## Black and Pink: Current Projects

1. An online pen pal program where LGBTQ prisoners can list their name, address, and 25-word (non-sexual) ad describing what they want from a pen pal.
2. A monthly newsletter made up of stories, poetry, art, and essays by currently and formerly incarcerated LGBTQ people. Currently incarcerated folks are encouraged to share their stories with Black & Pink so we can put them in the newsletter and nurture a sense of connection between LGBTQ people incarcerated around the country.
3. An art project that sells artwork sent to us by LGBTQ prisoners. All of the money we get for the artwork is put back into the commissary accounts of the artists. The artwork supports prisoners who are exploring their creativity and allows them to connect with “free world” folks who purchase and sell their artwork.
4. Direct advocacy and support for a few select individuals who are experiencing harassment, sexual violence, lack of access to health care, mistreatment, etc. We are not able to do advocacy work for everyone at this time because of capacity, but we do the best we can.

# Black and Pink: Definitions

There are many “buzz” words used in our statement of purpose and shared analysis. We wanted to provide a brief glossary of terms to help clarify our intentions behind our choice of wording.

*Prison Industrial Complex* – The prison industrial complex is a multifaceted construction of control and domination, most commonly seen as the U.S. prison and jail system, the concrete and steel buildings that warehouse individuals. While prisons and jails are a pivotal aspect, the prison industrial complex includes an entire culture of state and corporate collusion to control, discipline, and torture poor/low-income communities and communities of color. The tactics range from police forces to cameras mounted in communities; from the (in)justice system to corporate profiteering from prison phone calls; from immigration enforcement to media depictions of “criminals”; and on and on. (adapted from Critical Resistance)

*Abolition* – “Abolition defines both the goal we seek and the way we do our work today. Abolition means a world where we do not use prisons, policing and the larger system of the prison industrial complex as an ‘answer’ to what are social, political, and economic problems. Abolition means that instead we put in place the things that would reduce incidents of harm at the front end and address harm in a non-punitive manner when harm does occur. Abolition means that harm will occur far less often and that, when harm does occur, we address the causes of that harm rather than rely on the failed solutions of punishment. Thus, abolition is taking a harm reductionist approach to our society’s problems. Abolition means creating sustainable, healthy communities empowered to create safety and rooted in accountability, instead of relying on policing, courts, and imprisonment which are not creating safe communities.” ~Rose Braz, former director of Critical Resistance

*“Free World”* - We understand “free world” people to be those who are not currently in prison/jail/detention/etc. We use quotation marks because we understand the terminology of freedom to be deeply complex. There are those who would suggest that none of us are free as there is such heavy surveillance in our communities—the tentacles of the prison industrial complex are expansive. Others would suggest that freedom exists within ourselves and that it can never be taken from us. Regardless of how one understands freedom, in our terminology “free world” refers to those not currently confined in prison/jail/detention/etc.

*LGBTQ* – This acronym stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer. We understand that human sexuality and gender is far more complicated than this acronym. We are striving to find better terminology to include all people who identify outside of heterosexual and gender-conforming boundaries. Other identities people have used when writing to us that we are striving to affirm include same gender loving, homosexual, homophile, transsexual, transvestite, nelly, sissy, and dyke, along with many others.

This Purpose and Analysis is what B&P was founded on, and what we have based all the activities of B&P on since 2004. It needs more input from people in prison, formerly-incarcerated people, and YOU! It can be edited by the Leadership Circle with input from members.

## Write us: Reflecting on Pen-Pal Program

Dear B&P family,

We want to bring up some issues that may slow down our progress in matching prisoner pen-pals with “free world” pen-pals, and to get your thoughts! Several pen-pals have described uncomfortable situations when they have expressed to their pen-pal that they are interested only in non-romantic friendship, and unhappily continue to receive flirty and sexually-explicit mail in return. This experience has been turning some people off from participating in the Black & Pink pen-pal program, and often their friends as well. It is exciting to have new relationships that may be romantic. It is fine to ask if your pen-pal wants to write romantically or sexually, but we want to encourage new pen-pals to only write romantically with pen-pals who write very clearly that they are interested in romance. The pen-pal program so far has existed to create friendships. If both people end up wanting romance, that's great too! One way to make this more clear may be when placing pen-pal ads, if you are only looking for a romantic or sexual pen-pal relationship, your ad could state this clearly so that potential pen-pals have a clear idea of what people want. We are all working to create more pen-pal matches. The more good pen-pal matches and stories we have, the more word spreads and others find out how great our Black & Pink family is! **So, please write us and share:**

**1) Your pen-pal experiences and 2) Reasonable expectations for pen-pals on both sides**

**Thanks!! Write to: Black and Pink– Newsletter Submissions**

# Black and Pink: Family Structure

Members: Members are self-defined individuals who agree with our Purpose and Analysis. These people are “free world” folks, prisoners, pen-pals, outreach folks, newsletter stuffers, etc. All members can share thoughts about B&P activities. “Free world” members will be provided information by the email newsletter and/or website, and can give input by email, phone, or in person. Members in prison will be provided information by the monthly Newsletter, and can respond with general input by mail by writing “Leadership” on the address line. When a vote takes place on a decision, a “B&P ballot” will be sent out with the monthly Newsletter and e-newsletter, and 2 votes will be counted for every person in prison voting and 1 for every “free world” person.

Coordinators: Coordinators are people who have agreed to coordinate a specific project, committee, chapter, or task, i.e. the art program, or campus outreach, or are contact people for a prison or geographic area. They may be members or part of the Leadership Circle. They have responsibility to make decisions about projects, based on collective input, and are accountable to both the members and the leadership circle.

Committees: Committees are groups of people taking on a specific task or projects, for example outreach or the E-newsletter or accountability. They meet as needed. They will check in with the Leadership Circle and the membership before making big decisions.

Chapters: Chapters can be started by “free world” members and members in prison in order to work on advocacy, education, direct service, and/or organizing projects that are in keeping with the Purpose and Analysis of B&P. Chapters are accountable to the membership of their chapter and the Leadership Circle.

Advisory Group: This is a group of people who have experience with anti-prison and anti-oppression activism. The group will be majority formerly incarcerated people. They are recognized for their amazing and valuable experiences and insight, and are invited to provide input and guidance on the analysis, activities and structure of B&P. They are not necessarily involved in the day-to-day activities of the family and don't have formal decision making power.

Leadership Circle (LC): Leadership can make decisions about B&P as a family, and is responsible to see that the members and activities follow our Purpose and Analysis. LC can update the Purpose and Analysis. Leadership Circle provides strategic short- and long-term planning for B&P. Leadership Circle will be responsible for raising, managing, and using general B&P funds.

The LC will be made up of no more than 10 “free world” folks and no more than 10 prisoners.

To join, members should spend 3 months volunteering with B&P or have received the Newsletter for 3 months.

Each LC member needs to make a 1 year commitment.

All LC members should agree to the B&P analysis.

LC decisions will be made by consensus, which means that everyone agrees to a decision (not majority rule). In consensus, one person can “block” a decision based on principle, but not preference.

The LC should be made up of people in different places across the country, in prison and out.

Communication between inside/outside will work on a “Buddy system.” Each “free world” member will be paired with an incarcerated LC member. The “free world” buddy is responsible for representing the incarcerated person in Leadership Circle meeting/decisions.

The “free world” LC will meet monthly.

Right now, our temporary ‘free’ world LC is mostly white, young, and has college degrees. We are not happy with the lack of diversity of this group. Our plan to change it is: to listen to and prioritize the voices of people of color, formerly incarcerated people, and old and young folks. People who have held leadership for long periods of time will step off as new folks are coming into leadership. Voices of those most impacted by the PIC will be prioritized as “free world” leadership circle folks. People who do not identify as being most impacted by the PIC are expected to step aside when a leader who is most impacted by the PIC becomes available.

# Black and Pink: Join the Leadership Circle!

PAGE 9

## You voice is important! You can be on the Leadership Circle.

After reading the information on pages 6, 7, and 8, send us back the form below if you want to join the Leadership Circle (LC). The "free world" LC will put all the entries ("free world" and incarcerated) together and send it back in a Newsletter so everyone can vote for 10 people in prison and 10 people in the "free world". Prisoner votes will count double. The concept of a group of 20 people (10 people in prison and 10 people in the "free world") has been chosen so there can be many voices, and not be too big to make communication hard. If more people want to be on the Leadership Circle than can, we hope people will coordinate B&P projects in their prison, start a chapter, be a contact person, or regularly share thoughts. We need it all :)

If you join the Leadership Circle, written training will be provided about decisions making, organizing, and other skills that LC members request training on. All levels of experience can respond, what's most important is our passion and commitment.

The B&P Purpose and Analysis will best be served by having a diversity of people on the Leadership Circle. This includes race, gender, sexuality, age, geography, lifers/short-timers, ability, etc. To meet this goal, please answer the questions on the entry form. We would like to be at least half people of color, not majority male, and well-represented by lifers and people with long sentences.

### This is the timeline for creating the Leadership Circle:

March and April: Announcement of LC election is in monthly Newsletter.

May 15: Post-mark your letters by this date. You can send them earlier than this.

June and July: Ballots will go out in both Newsletters; only vote once!

August 15: Counting of Ballots

September: Announcement in Newsletter

(tear on this line)

### I want to join the Leadership Circle! Mail-in Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to join the Leadership Circle? (65 words max. Please write as neat as possible. You can mention your leadership skills and your beliefs about prison, sexuality, and gender, and anything else you want. If writing is hard for you, please get help, or let us know that we should edit your writing.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **What is your....**

Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Sexuality: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Sentence : \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by May 15 to:

Black and Pink- Leadership Circle  
565 Boylston St  
Boston, MA 02116

Newsletter Subscriptions (start or stop )

Newsletter Submissions

Free "Outside" Pen-Pal Requests

Free Prisoner 2 Prisoner Pen-Pal List

Ideas for Black & Pink and  
Statement of Purpose Feedback

## Write to B&P!

## Write to B&P Art!

*\*\*\*New Address as of January 2011! \*\*\**

**Black and *Pink*– Newsletter Subscriptions**

**Black and *Pink*– Newsletter Submissions**

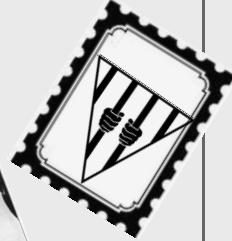
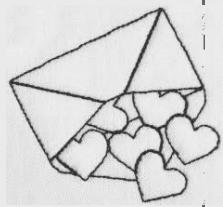
**Black and *Pink*– Pen Pal**

**Black and *Pink*– P2P List**

**Black and *Pink*– Developing Leadership**

**c/o Community Church of Boston  
565 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116**

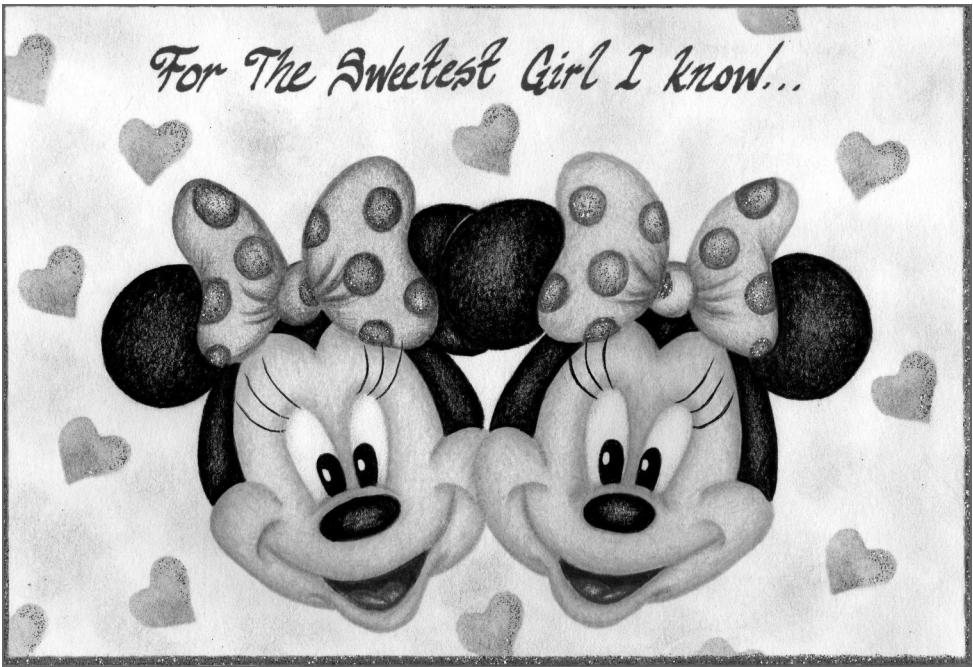
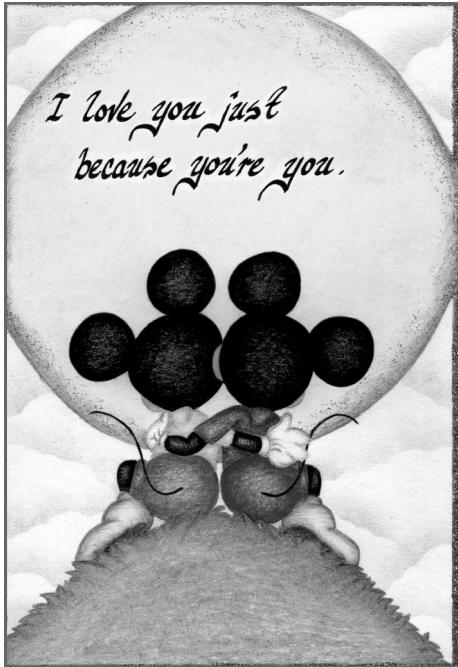
**Black & *Pink* Art c/o Reed Miller  
200 Amory Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130**



**LEGAL:** Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. "Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men,

**SURVIVORS:** Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor.  
**Ms. Melissa Rothstein, Esq., 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010**

## Black and Pink Art Update!



We sold 15 original Valentines Day Cards and 4 prints this month! Congratulations to the talented artists, like Ricky Moulder (who drew the above cards), Freddie Goessler, Jay Martin, and Billy Thomas. We've got over 100 prisoner artists involved currently, and our online program continues to grow. Thanks for your hard work, and your patience with our delays in writing back to you right on time. You inspire all of us volunteers!!!!